

REMARKS

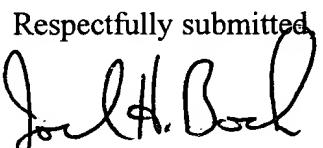
Claims 2, 3 and 8 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 6 were previously cancelled. Claims 4, 5 and 7 were previously withdrawn as drawn to non-elected inventions.

Claim 8 has been amended.

The amendment to claim 8 is believed to clarify the claimed cutting tool. Claim 8 now recites limitations directed to the blunt surfaces which are described entirely in terms of the structure of the cutting tool. The phrase which related to the fiber optic cable, which was rejected by the Examiner as indefinite, has been deleted. This amendment is believed to adequately address the Examiner's §112 rejection.

In particular, amended claim 8 adds an antecedent basis for the length and width of the cutting blades and states that at least a portion of each blunt surface is spaced from the pivot axis so that the blunt surface of each one of the first and second cutting members extends beyond the width of the other first and second member when the cutting edges of the first and second members form an angle in relation to one another which is no larger than 90°. This structure differs from Gunson 4,048,721 for the reasons described in the previously submitted amendment, dated November 18, 2002. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 2 and 3 as amended clearly distinguish over the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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